

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 RSR-01

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R 211422Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EAGR ETRD UG LY

SUBJECT: UGANDA'S COTTON AND COFFEE

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBECONOFF, COFFEE MARKETING BOARD CHAIRMAN GOWA DISCUSSED COFFEE AND COTTON SITUATIONS IN UGANDA. ACCORDING TO GOWA, 72-73 COFFEE CROP WAS EXCELLENT. AS IN PAST, PROBLEM IS NOT IN PRODUCTION BUT IN FINDING NEW MARKETS. FRANCE AND LIBYA REPORTEDLY BUYING MORE UGANDAN COFFEE THAN IN PAST. HOWEVER, COFFEE MARKETING BOARD HAS HUGE STOCKS OF UNSOLD COFFEE IN KAMPALA AND MOMBASA. SOME TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BUT NOTHING DISASTROUS.

2. QUERIED ABOUT WHO IS FINANCING THIS YEAR'S CROP, GOWA REPLIED CMB FINANCING ITSELF. ASKED WHERE THE CMB WAS GETTING MONEY, GOWA SAID CMB NOT PAYING GOU LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY IT OWES UNTIL COFFEE RECEIPTS FOR THIS YEAR ARE IN. COMMENT: HE IS PROBABLY REFERRING TO EXPORT TAX ON COFFEE. END COMMENT.

3. GOWA CONFIRMED REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT LINT MARKETING BOARD NOT IN SUCH GOOD SHAPE. THIS YEAR'S CROP NOT BAD BUT MAJOR

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PROBLEMS EXIST IN FINANCING, GINNING, AND TRANSPORTATION.

LINT MARKETING BOARD MUST FINANCE CROP DALES UND DOES NOT HAVE AS MUCH MONEY AVAILABLE AS CMB. REPORTEDLY, SOME FARMERS HOLDING BACK CROPS BECAUSE OF INABILITY LMB TO PAY FOR THEM. AS REPORTED BY OTHERS, GOWA SAID PLANTING OF COTTON FOR NEXT YEAR DOWN CONSIDERABLY AS FARMERS PLANT CASH GRAIN CROPS INSTEAD.

4. THOUGH HE DIDN'T SPECIFY WHAT COMMODITIES WERE INVOLVED (EXCEPT TO SAY THAT COFFEE WAS NOT ONE OF THEM), GOWA SAID PAYMENTS FROM LIBYA FOR CERTAIN UGANDAN EXPORTS WERE COMING IN VERY SLOWLY. LIBYA PURCHASES ON CIF TERMS AND RECENTLY HAS BEEN ARGUING OVER PRICES AFTER THE GOODS HAVE ARRIVED IN LIBYA. GOWA SAID ACCORDING TO HIS UNDERSTANDING, LIBYA HAS FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS WHICH COMPLICATE PAYMENT. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY STATISTICS UGANDAN EXPORTS TO LIBYA FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1973 AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS. EXPORTS FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1972 WERE 50,000 DOLLARS. END COMMENT.
KEELEY

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